

Message Text

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15
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FBOE-00 /011 W
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R 201231Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9168
INFO AMCONSUL ISFAHAN UNN

UNCLAS TEHRAN 9456

FOR NEA

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: AFSP, IR
SUB: CONSULAR OFFICE AND RESIDENCE IN ISFAHAN

REF: STATE 230490, ISFAHAN 0037

1. REQUEST BUREAU RECONSIDER ITS REFTEL POSITION IN LIGHT OF
FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:

A. WHEN MARSHALL'S HOUSE WAS LEASED, WE WERE UNDER PRESSURE
FROM DEPARTMENT TO OPEN POST AT FISCAL YEAR END, AND TOTAL
EFFORTS BY CONSULATE AND EMBASSY PRODUCED LEASES WE NOW HOLD AS
VERY BEST OPTION AT THAT TIME.

B. BUREAU'S SUGGESTION TO MOVE MEGICA INTO THE MARSHALL
HOUSE APPEARS TO OVERLOOK THE POINT WE HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO
CONVEY THAT RSO, RSS, AND LOCAL POLICE ALL RECOMMEND AGAINST
RETENTION BECAUSE OF SECURITY RISKS INHERENT IN LOCATION OF
HOUSE IN CONGESTED DEADEND ALLEY. IT IS NOT THE OCCUPANT BUT
THE HOUSE ITSELF WHICH POSES THE PROBLEM.

C. CONSUL QUITE CLEARLY EXPLAINED THAT LANDLORD
ADAMANT ABOUT LEASE HAVING TWO YEAR MAXIMUM. FYI: LAND-
LORD WILL PERSONALLY OCCUPY HOUSE AFTER CONSULATE LEASE
EXPIRES. LANDLORD APPROACHED AGAIN AND HE REPEATED HIS
TERMS AS RELAYED IN ISFAHAN 0037. HOUSE AND TERMS
BEST WE ABLE TO LOCATE AFTER MORE THAN A YEAR OF INTENSIVE,
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EVEN DESPERATE SEARCH.

D. AGREE WITH BUREAU THAT TERMS FAR FROM WHAT WE WOULD WISH BUT WE CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED WITH PERSONAL SAFETY AND COMFORT OF PRINCIPAL OFFICER AND FEEL WE SHOULD SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY WHILE WE HAVE IT. IN MEANTIME ISFAHAN WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR SUITABLE LONG TERM OFFICE BUILDING AND QUARTERS FOR ITS STAFF AND WILL REPORT ANY BREAKS IT COMES ACROSS.

2. PLEASE ADVISE.
HELMS

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NNN

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